

Appl. No. 10/766,846
Amdt. Dated January 18, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 3, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

Claim 2 is amended. Claims 3 and 4 are cancelled. Claims 1 and 5-9 remain pending as previously presented.

Claim Rejections

All claims were rejected as being obvious in view of JP 07-289860 in view of various other references. Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement filed on May 3, 2004 lists JP 07-289860 as being published on July 11, 1995, but this is an error. As shown in the attached printout from the Patent Abstracts of Japan and Derwent Databases, JP 07-289860 was actually published on November 7, 1995. This error apparently arose from confusing the day and month fields of either the Japanese publication or Information Disclosure form without any deceptive intent. Applicants submit that JP 07-289860 was first published on November 7, 1995.

The present application claims priority to US Application Serial Number 08/514,119 filed on August 11, 1995; now Patent No. 5,639,373. All claims are supported by this priority application, for example, Figures 6, 7A and 8 and column 19, line 32 to column 20, line 57 of US 5,639,373, and are entitled to the benefit of a filing date of August 11, 1995. This predates the publication of JP 07-289860 and, accordingly, JP 07-289860 is not citable against the present claims.

For the reasons above, the Applicants submit that the claims are allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

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